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6 November 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: News Report in the Evening Star as of 6 November

1. At about 1950 this evening Mr. McCone called me and informed me that at the meeting of the Executive Committee this evening much difficulty and perhaps consternation had been raised by the article in the Evening Star which alleged that from a number of different sources, principally Cuban, that the Soviets were moving missiles into caves. Mr. McCone said that the consensus was that this was without foundation, certainly not provable, and that he wanted me, through Mr. Helms and Colonel Grogan, to get in touch with the AP and the UPI and tell them that they should attach some degree of credibility to the stories that they got out of Miami and other areas and certainly not to just print them as indicated. He wanted me to do this right now. I told Mr. McCone that as far as we could prove, we could not, repeat not, say definitely that the stories were without foundation and, in addition, I did not feel that the CIA was the proper Agency to make this approach. Mr. McCone said that he had made the commitment to the President to make these approaches and therefore I was to do it. I said I would.

2. Accordingly, at about 2000, I got in touch with Mr. Helms, indicated what the problem was and repeated generally the preceding discussion. Mr. Helms stated that Colonel Grogan had been with Mr. Helms and Mr. Cline when they had discussed a similar subject with Mr. Dille of Time-Life, that if we made any approach at all to the AP and the UPI we should say, "Look, you just may be off on the wrong line. You may be getting yourself out on a limb and could possibly be an embarrassing situation for you. Why don't you work yourself back and start checking your sources and try to attach some degree of credibility as any good Intelligence agency would?" Mr. Helms agreed that the Central Intelligence Agency was not the appropriate Agency to make these approaches but since Mr. McCone had made a commitment to the President, we had no choice.

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3. I then talked to Colonel Grogan, pointed out what the problem was, pointed out Mr. Helms' advice, suggested that we follow that line, and asked Colonel Grogan if he had any other proposition. Colonel Grogan said he understood what the problem was, he did have the proper contacts with AP and UPI, and for me not to worry about it any more, that he would follow the line that Mr. Helms had indicated, and he thought he would check in with me in the morning and tell me what the results were.